

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2713

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19757

ROME FOR FODAG

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, FAO, FR

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND OTHER
REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF FAO

REF: STATE 167005

1. WE RAISED THE QUESTIDN OF PARTICIPATION IN FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES WITH QUAI INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICER DANIEL BERNARD ON JULY 7. HE SAID THAT THE GOF AGREES WITH THE POSITION OUTLINED IN PARAS 4-A AND B OF REF AND WILL ARGUE AT ROME TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION UNTIL THE FALL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL. ONE ARGUMENT WILL BE THAT A MATTER SO IMPORTANT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SERIOUSLY UNDER A REGULAR AGENDA ITEM AND NOT RAISED LIGHTLY UNDER ITEM 10, "MISCELLANEOUS".

2. NOTING THAT DESPITE THEIR JURIDICIAL RIGHT TO BE A FULL MEMBER THE FRENCH HAD OPTED FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN THE AFRICAN REGION, BERNARD SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF FRENCH MEMBERSHIP IN THE LA (AND ASIAN) REGIONAL BODIES IS NOW UNDER STUDY. HE INTIMATED THAT FOR
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POLITICAL REASONS FRANCE, LIKE THE U.K., MIGHT DECIDE

TO ACCEPT OBSERVER STATUS IN THE THREE NON-EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUPS TO WHICH IT HAS A "RIGHT" TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. THE U.S. SEEMS TO HAVE AN "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH, HE SAID, AND THEREFORE WOULD DOUBTLESS OPPOSE ANY COMPROMISE PARTICIPATION FORMULA SUCH AS ONE LIMITING FULL MEMBERSHIP TO STATES HAVING THEIR CAPITAL IN THE REGION, OTHER CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING STATES BEING RELEGATED TO OBSERVER STATUS. THE FRENCH HOPE TO HAVE MADE THEIR POLICY DECISION BEFORE THE ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING IN AUGUST, AND WILL NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSION OF PARTICIPATION AT THE FALL COUNCIL SESSION.

3. FINALLY, BERNARD INDICATED THAT THERE IS A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE FAO SECRETARIAT AND BULA HOYOS OVER THE COMPETENCE OF THE LATTER'S AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO TAKE UP THE PARTICIPATION PROBLEM AT ITS NEXT MEETING LATER THIS MONTH.
RUSH

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